

5 Ways to Build Language Skills with Phonics Dominoes

Phonics Dominoes is a fantastic way to practice word-building and decoding skills. With five different versions of the Phonics Dominoes available, the possibilities for learning fun are endless. Here are five great ways to use the short vowels version of Phonics Dominoes to strengthen your child's reading and spelling skills.

1. **Blend words.** Your kids will get tons of practice blending words and using the different word parts to create new words.
2. **Build vocabulary.** Kids can learn new words as they experiment with forming words with the tiles. You can also work with single tiles and encourage your kids to think of as many words as they can using the letters on that tile.
3. **Practice spelling skills.** Kids will have fun finding “real” words to spell such as *mop* and *hat*, while avoiding “fake” words such as *hod* and *rix*.
4. **Build word families.** Your child can experiment with word families, which are words that follow a similar pattern. Have your child keep adding new beginning consonants to form new words that rhyme.
5. **Play with similarly spelled words.** Phonics Dominoes can be especially helpful for Word Guessers because they will have to focus closely on the small variations between similarly spelled words. They'll learn how changing even one letter of a word changes the meaning.



A Note from Our Game Testers: As you read the instructions, you may notice that Phonics Dominoes uses a different definition for *phonograms* than we do in our programs. This difference won't affect your student or the game play in any way, but you may be interested to know the distinction. Our working definition of *phonogram* is “a letter or combination of letters that represents a sound” (such as B or CK). The game uses the working definition of *word families* (such as -AN, -OG, and -UN).

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